



660 North Street, Suite 300
Jackson, Mississippi 39202
Phone: 601-359-1386
Fax: 601-359-1349
www.mfc.ms.gov



September 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

16TH SECTION LAND ATFS
CERTIFIED 2

BIRTHDAYS..... 3

TREE KNOWLEDGE 3

PERSONNEL PERSONALS ... 4

HOPPER NAMED COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE DEAN..... 4

BENEFIT ENROLLMENT
SCHEDULE 5

POLICY UPDATES..... 5

WEEKS ACT PICTURES..... 6

SAFETY FIRST 7



MFC News

Caring for the Trees and Forests of Mississippi Since 1926

NORTHWEST DISTRICT'S "FUN WALKS"

By Brant Godbold, District Forester, Northwest District.

Northwest District hosted three days of "Fun Walks" to encourage MFC employees to begin a healthy lifestyle at home and at work. "Studies show that 15 minutes each day of walking will allow a person to look better, to feel better and to live longer", according to Steve Burgess, NWD Assistant DF.

The NW District Safety Committee introduced the idea and scheduled three dates and sites in the NWD to encourage MFC employees to voluntarily participate in these 'Fun Walks'. Also, special guidelines and suggestions from WebMD handouts were distributed to each participating employee for more information to learn to live a healthier

lifestyle and maintain cardiovascular fitness.

Thirty-three (33) NWD employees participated in the three Fun Walks held on August 16th in Batesville, MS at Trussell Park, August 17th at the Grenada Lake Fitness Trail on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property and August 18th in

Scott, Mike Goodwin, Brant Godbold, Steve Burgess, Mark Williams, Wayne Bailey, Wayne Wesley, Tony Hocutt, Cliff Sewell, Danny Downs, Ken Cline, Louis Ray, Erma Steed, Jeff Crowder, Gary Alldread, George Byrd, Wesley Howard, Mac Ables, Jim Strong, Kris King, Grady Able, Charles Jefferson, Terry Brown, Antonio Brooks, Joey Hogue, Keith Boone and Justin Deaton.

The three days of Fun Walks were summed up with a challenge to the other districts and state

Greenwood, MS at Clerico Park. Each "Fun Walk" consisted of a one mile walk and some were welcome to do it twice, if they wanted too.

Those participating were: John Rhodes, Drew Stafford, Stevie Little, Charles Clolinger, Edward Rowland, David Butler, Tommie

office personnel from Master Mechanic Cliff Sewell: "The Northwest District is the best, better than all the rest and that's no mess!!"

For more information contact Steve Burgess or Jon Mark Williams.



The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides equal employment opportunities and services to all individuals regardless of disability, race, age, religion, color, gender, national origin, or political affiliation.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Have a safe Labor Day



Labor Day
Holiday

Monday,
September 5,
2011



Newsletter Deadlines

All submissions are welcome. Photographs are encouraged (although space limitations August curtail inclusion). Items must be received by the **10th of the month** to be included in the next month's issue. E-mail submissions (in *Microsoft Word*) and photos to

lharris@mfc.state.ms.us

or mail to:

Lisa A. Harris

Mississippi Forestry Commission

822 SCR 115 S

Raleigh, MS 39153



From the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Newsletter

The Friendship Oak Tree

The Friendship Oak tree is located on the front lawn of the Southern Miss Gulf Park campus in Long Beach, Miss.

The historic Friendship Oak recently survived Hurricane Katrina, another in a long string of hurricanes that have rocked the Mississippi Gulf Coast. For more information, [click here](#).

Friendship Oak Measurements

Current measurements show a 50-foot height; diameter of the trunk is 5 feet 9 inches; circumference of the trunk is 18 feet 7 inches; spread of foliage is 156 feet. The average length of the main lateral limbs is 60-66

feet from the trunk; average circumference of the limbs at the trunk is 7 1/2 feet; the tree forms almost 16,000 feet of shelter; and lateral roots go out 150 feet.

The tree was remeasured by the Mississippi Forestry Commission on Aug. 22, 2011. [View a video of the result.](#)

Friendship History

On the beachfront of The University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Park Campus (formerly known as Gulf Park College for Women), overlooking the Gulf of Mexico, is a magnificent live oak tree 500-plus years old. The tree is loved by former students of Gulf Park College, revered by tree lovers, held in fond memory by those whose wedding cere-

monies were conducted on the platform within its mighty branches, and viewed daily by tourists. This is the Friendship Oak.

Friendship Oak keeps her majestic vigil on the Gulf of Mexico, a vigil that dates back to 1487. If asked about her length of stay on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, she might reply, "I was a sapling when Christopher Columbus sailed the Caribbean and I had begun to bear acorns when Ponce de Leon reached Florida in his quest for the Fountain of Youth. In 1587, the year Virginia Dare, the first white child born at Roanoke Island, appeared, I had turned a hundred years old..."

Friendship Oak has seen the history of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and of America

Fun Walk 11





My leaves are simple, opposite, deciduous and range in size from 3.0" to 5.0". Their margin is entire or irregularly toothed with a long tapered apex and a heart-shaped or flattened base. They are green above and paler green below.

My twigs are slender in size and reddish brown in color. Their surface is shiny with numerous pale lenticels; v-shaped leaf scars and 3 conspicuous bundle scars.

My terminal bud is 0.25" long with smaller laterals. Their shape is a narrow conical and they are reddish brown in color.

My fruit is double samara (indehiscent, winged) and found in cluster on slender

Tree Knowledge - Who Am I? for August 2011 was the Poison Sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix* (L.) Kuntze or *Rhus vernix* L.) Check out page 293 in the Mississippi Trees book.



Poison Sumac
(*Toxicodendron vernix*
(L.) Kuntze)

TREE KNOWLEDGE - WHO AM I?

stalks. They are broad winged in shaped and are reddish brown in color.

My flowers are single in nature and are yellowish green on long hairy drooping filamentous stalks.

My bark varies among individual trees, it is light gray and smooth when young and darker with long longitudinal furrows and scaly ridges with age.

I form a single stem and grow to be 100.0' tall. I have a slow growth rate and a long life span of over a 100 years. I am tolerant to shade, fire and drought.

I prefer moist rich, well-drained soils of slopes and ridges. I can also be found on poorer soils and limestone soils.

I like a medium to coarse soil with a pH of 3.7 to 7.9.

I range from Newfoundland west through Manitoba to the Dakotas and Iowa; south to Texas and Louisiana in the West and through Virginia to Alabama in the East. In Mississippi, I am found in the northern counties of Benton, Tishomingo, Panola, Lafayette and Pontotoc and the southeastern counties of Jefferson and Simpson. Have

you seen me in other Mississippi counties?

I am commonly browsed by white-tailed deer, moose and snowshoe hare. My seed, buds, twigs and leaves are eaten by red squirrel, gray squirrel and flying squirrel. My bark is fed on by porcupine. I provide nesting sites for numerous species of songbirds and cavity nesters such as the black-capped chickadee, common flicker, pileated woodpecker and screech owl.

My wood is tough, durable, hard, heavy and strong. It is commonly used to make furniture, paneling, flooring and veneer. It is also used for gunstocks, tool handles, plywood dies, cutting blocks, woodenware, novelty products, sporting goods, bowling pins and musical instruments.

I am a beautiful landscaping tree with a wide tolerance for soil pH. I have brilliant red, orange and yellow fall colors. I am subject to weather damage and sensitive to air pollution.

I am used along with beech and birch in the hardwood distillation industry as a source of wood alcohol, acetate of lime and charcoal.

Who Am I?



September's Birthdays



Rebekah Olander -1
George Davis -2
Donald Watson -2
Russell Jones-3
RC Bownes -4
William Wilson -4
Allen Nunley -5
Matilda Fleming -6
Dudley Jones -8
Margie Burrell -10
Lynn Conley -10
John Rowley -13
John Jones -14
Stanley Parker -14
Michael Browning -15
Christopher Ivey -15
Troy McCluskey -15
Mitchell Whatley -15
Cheryl Arnold -16
Jimmie Gaines -16
Jackie McKee -18
Kevin Melton -18
Gerald Farmer -19
Russell Garrett -19
David Harper -19
Eric Hambrick -21
Ronald Adcock -22
Janice Baker -22
Karl Spencer -22
Lacie Wilkerson -22
Steven Williams -22
Ruth Dollar -23
Leslie Blackwell -24
Danny Loftin -24
Tommy Rutland -25
Jimmy Fulton -27
Rex Mason -27
Phillip South -27
Michael Street -28
Robbin Dickerson -29
Timothy Hinton -29





- ☺ Mike Zeiderman, Forest Ranger, Southeast District.
- ☺ Mary Sachs, Emergency Telecommunicator, Southeast District.
- ☺ Thomas Bryant, Forest Ranger, Southeast District.
- ☺ Alexis Crosby, Emergency Telecommunicator, Southeast District.

SAVE THE DATE

*Mississippi State Fair
October 5 to October
16, 2011*



Please remember Sandra Ford, Underserved Landowner Coordinator in your thoughts and prayers as her son Christopher Ford passed away August 19, 2011.

TRI-STATE SPORTSMAN'S BONANZA

Article and photos submitted by George Byrd, MFC Public Outreach Officer

The MFC participated in the 2011 Tri State Sportsman's Bonanza in Tupelo, MS by helping landowners become *FIREWISE*.

The Firewise display was set up and handouts on Firewise and Smokey Bear wildfire prevention materials were distributed to the public.

The event was held on Friday evening July 22 to Sunday afternoon July 24 at the Tupelo Furniture Market on Cooley Blvd. in Tupelo, MS.

The Tri-State Sportsman's Bonanza is an annual event for wildlife enthusiasts and for people interested in natural resources.



Brandon McDaniel working the MFC Firewise booth at the 2011 Tri-State Sportsman's Bonanza Event in Tupelo, MS.



UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

Once again, it's time for the United Way Campaign kickoff. You should have received a pledge sheet and all the Information you will need is attached and the **deadline is September 2, 2011.**

2011 MFA ANNUAL MEETING

*"Growing the Next
Generation" People,
Products, Trees*

Make plans now to attend the 2011 MFA Annual Meeting set for Oct. 19-21 at the Hilton Jackson.

Please contact Lace Wilkerson in the state office for registration information.

For details visit www.msforestry.net and click on the Growing the Next Generation logo.

BENEFIT ENROLLMENT SCHEDULE

By Jan Baker, MFC Personnel Officer

If you are planning to make changes to your benefit options, please be sure to bring the social security number and birth date with you for any dependents you are planning to cover.

This will be your opportunity to meet with the representatives of each of our supplemental benefit

plans. Please do not hesitate to sit down with any one of them, they will be more than happy to take all the time needed to answer your questions/concerns or advise of any changes to existing coverage options.

All sessions begin at 9:00 a.m. except the Capital District which begins at 1:30 p.m. Employees may attend any session they de-

sire. For those employees attending sessions outside of their normal assigned work area, please make every attempt to get there as early as possible. Once we have seen all the employees assigned to the specific location site, we will be leaving.

For additional information, contact Jan Baker at (601) 359-2811 or jbaker@mfc.state.ms.

BENEFITS ENROLLMENT SCHEDULE 2012*

Location	Date	Time
South Central (Bay Springs)	Tuesday, September 27, 2011	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Southeast (Wiggins)	Wednesday, September 28, 2011	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Southwest (Brookhaven)	Thursday, September 29, 2011	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
State Office	Monday, October 3, 2011	9:00 a.m. to Noon
Capital (Pearl)	Monday, October 3, 2011	1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Northwest (Elliott)	Tuesday, October 4, 2011	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Northeast (Tupelo)	Wednesday, October 5, 2011	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
East Central (Philadelphia)	Thursday, October 6, 2011	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

* Plan Year (January 1 to December 31, 2012)



Moving On

- * Allen Stroud, Service Forester, Kemper County, East Central District
- * Patrick Dickerson, Forest Ranger, Forrest County, Southeast District
- * Paul Greenough, Forest Ranger, Jackson County, Southeast District
- * Christopher Sikes, Forest Ranger, Marshall County, Northeast District
- * Justin Mullins, Emergency Telecommunicator, Lincoln County, Southwest District



MISSISSIPPI PRESCRIBE BURNING SHORT COURSE

Will be held between October 3-5, 2011 at Jones County Jr. College in Ellisville, Mississippi.

Contact Dixie Cartwright at MSU/ Academic Outreach & Continuing Education at (662)325-9191 or e-mail: ccartwright@aoce.msstate.edu for more information. Check out this link: <http://www.ce.msstate.edu/ptd/forestdescr.html#prescribed> requirements and fees.



JOSH SKIDMORE AND CATCH-A-DREAM

Submitted by Josh Skidmore, Spatial Technology Forester for the MFC

The MFC continues to support the Catch-A-Dream Foundation. In May of 2011, Joshua Skidmore of the MFC went on a western fishing adventure with a beautiful young lady and her family from North Carolina. The group flew to New Mexico where they spent a day fishing for white bass, wall-eye and crappie. The young lady named Olivia had never been fishing and had never been out west. She was a sweet, quiet girl who continues to suffer daily with hearing loss, vision problems and fatigue due to her illness. Her continuous doctor visits and monitoring are a constant reminder to us all that life is

precious and short. She is making the most of it by continuing to fight and encourage others with her attitude and smile. Her parents and two brothers were also along for her adventure and got to catch and “accidentally” release a few fish as well (you

should have seen the size of the one that got away)!

The Catch-A-Dream foundation grants wishes to children who have been diagnosed with a terminal or life threatening disease/condition, but these dreams are specifically for hunting and fishing adventures. Catch-A-Dream (CAD) is based out of Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS. Joshua acted as a “Host” for CAD on this particular trip. Families

All aspects of the CAD organization are by donation. Guides and staff volunteer time, money and hunts to this worthy cause.

Thanks go out to the generous donations made by various groups and individuals (Captain Frank) that make these trips possible. If you would like to contribute to CAD, you may look them up on the web at <http://catchadream.org>. You may also go to www.goodsearch.com and use this as your search engine.

Catch-A-Dream can be used as your charity of choice and if so, a portion of the proceeds from searches and purchases will directly benefit CAD. Happy hunting and fishing!



interact directly with CAD through the host on these dream trips. Hosts are responsible for ensuring that the family is well taken care of, that all plans are met on time, that outfitters and family's expectations are met and that the trip goes smoothly.



Safety First . . .

Tips for Safe Driving

Tip #1: Drive with care.

Always—

- Plan your trips ahead of time. Decide what time to leave and which roads to take. Try to avoid heavy traffic, poor weather and high-speed areas.
- Wear your safety belt—and wear it correctly. (It should go over your shoulder and across your lap.)
- Drive at the speed limit. It's unsafe to drive too fast or too slow.
- Be alert! Pay attention to traffic at all times.
- Keep enough distance between you and the car in front of you.
- Be extra careful at intersections. Use your turn signals and remember to look around you for people and other cars.
- Check your blind spot when changing lanes or backing up.
- Be extra careful at train tracks. Remember to look both ways for trains.
- When you take a new medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist about side effects. Many medicines may affect your driving even when you feel fine. If your medicine makes you dizzy or drowsy, talk to your doctor to find out

ways to take your medicine so it doesn't affect your driving.

Never—

- Never drink and drive.
- Never drive when you feel angry or tired. If you start to feel tired, stop your car somewhere safe. Take a break until you feel more alert.
- Never eat, drink or use a cell phone while driving.

If—

- If you don't see well in the dark, try not to drive at night or during storms.
- If you have trouble making left turns at an intersection, make three right turns instead of one left turn.
- If you can, avoid driving in bad weather, such as during rain, sleet or snow.

Tip #2: Take care of your car.

- Make sure you have plenty of gas in your car.
- Have your car tuned up regularly.
- Keep your windshields and mirrors clean.
- Keep a cloth in your car for cleaning windows.
- Replace your windshield wiper blades when they become worn out.

- Consider using Rain-X® or a similar product to keep your windows clear.
- If you are shopping for a new car, look for a car with power steering and automatic transmission.

Tip #3: Know where you can find a ride.

How do you get around when your car is in the shop? If you don't know the answer to this question, it's time for you to put together a "transportation plan."

A transportation plan is a list of all the ways that you can get around. Use this list when your car is in the shop or when you don't feel safe driving. Your transportation plan might include:

- Rides from friends and family
- Taxi
- Bus or train
- Senior shuttle

If you need help creating a transportation plan, your doctor can get you started.

Tip #4: Take a driver safety class.

To learn how to drive more safely, try taking a class. In a driver safety class, the instructor teaches you skills that you can use when you are driving. To

find a class near you, call one of the following programs:

- **AARP 55 ALIVE Driver Safety Program**
1 888 227-7669
- **AAA Safe Driving for Mature Operators Program**
Call your local AAA club to find a class near you.
- **National Safety Council Defensive Driving Course**
1 800 621-7619
- **Driving School Association of the Americas, Inc.**
1 800 270-3722

These classes usually last several hours. They don't cost much—some are even free. As an added bonus, you might receive a discount on your auto insurance after taking one of these classes. Talk to your insurance company to see if it offers a discount.

When was you last Defense Driving Course?



First Time, Every Time